

THE ORIGIN OF HUMANS—DOES IT MATTER WHAT YOU BELIEVE?

Note to the speaker

Help the audience to appreciate that the teaching of evolution demoralizes humans and offers no hope. Show that the Bible expresses the Creator's view of humans, that it elevates our lives and our thinking, and that it offers a genuine hope

THERE ARE VARIOUS BELIEFS ABOUT OUR ORIGIN (5 min.)

Theory of evolution comes in many versions: natural selection and survival of the fittest, mutations, punctuated equilibrium (*ce* 21-3, 99)

Many Catholic and Protestant clergy accept evolution (*g95* 8/8 5; *w86* 4/1 12, 19)

Bible teaches that we were created “in God's image,” able from the outset to reflect Creator's attributes (Read Genesis 1:27)

Unlike animals, Adam was a “son of God” (Lu 3:38)

Evolution contradicts Bible's account of creation and man's fall into sin

Jesus, who was present at creation, firmly believed the Genesis account, even quoting from it (Pr 8:22-31; Mt 19:4-6; Joh 8:58)

His genealogy goes back to a *man*—Adam (Lu 3:23, 38)

OUR BELIEFS ABOUT OUR ORIGIN INFLUENCE US (7 min.)

Evolution equates humans with animals, affecting the way people think about themselves (*g98* 6/22 7; *g95* 8/8 5-7)

Historians admit that evolutionary thinking changed human attitudes and encouraged animallike behavior (*g98* 6/22 4; *g95* 8/8 5-8)

Evolutionary psychology tries to explain human behavior in terms of evolution theory (*g98* 6/22 3-9)

Premise is that life's primary purpose is to propagate genes by whatever means

Immorality is seen as natural

Parental love is viewed as a gene-inspired ploy to ensure survival of offspring

Some self-help books are based on evolutionary psychology

Yet, even evolutionists fear the possible social consequences of the new psychology

Christians must watch that they do not fall prey to empty deception (Col 2:8)

MAJOR FLAWS IN THE EVOLUTION MODEL (10 min.)

Evolution does not satisfy man's quest for the meaning of life (*g98* 6/22 5-6; *ct* 71-2)

Questions about our marvelous body, especially our brain, remain unanswered (Give examples; *g98* 6/22 6; *ct* 49-72)

Morality and conscience remain a puzzle for evolutionists (*ct* 68-9)

Humans are profoundly distressed by death (*g98* 6/22 7-8)

Darwin predicted that humans “will tend to progress towards perfection” (*g95* 8/8 6)

This prediction has proved to be false

Morals have deteriorated; wars and atrocities have caused unprecedented loss of life, especially since 1914 (*g95* 8/8 7)

In recent times, horrible crimes have been committed in the name of ethnic cleansing (*g98* 10/22 3; *w95* 10/1 5)

THE BIBLE'S ANSWERS SATISFY (10 min.)

Bible recognizes that humans have some things in common with animals

Both humans and animals are souls (Read Genesis 1:20, 21, 24; 2:7) (*rs* 375)

When souls die, man as well as beast go back to the dust, or unconscious nonexistence (Ec 3:19, 20; 9:5)

Unique characteristics set humans apart from animals

Since humans were created in God's image, they can display godly qualities of love, justice, wisdom, mercy (Pr 19:22; Mic 6:8)

Humans thrive on love, God's predominant quality (1Jo 4:8; *g98* 6/22 10-11)

Humans have spiritual needs (Mt 4:4; 5:3)

They have a desire for meaning in their lives, which the Bible satisfies (Ge 1:26, 28; Ps 37:11, 29; Ec 12:13; Re 4:11)

Humans desire to live forever (Ec 3:11)

Human brain was designed to learn forever (Give examples; *g98* 6/22 9)

Condemnation to death subjected humans to futility (Ro 8:20-22)

WHY WE HAVE A TENDENCY TOWARD WRONGDOING (6 min.)

Humans were originally created perfect (Read Deuteronomy 32:4)

Sin's harmful effect on our genes, not animal genes, introduced undesirable traits (Read Deuteronomy 32:5; Ecclesiastes 7:29)

We are under "sin's law" (Ro 7:21-23)

Like bad steering alignment that misdirects a car, this "law" inclines us toward wrongdoing (Ge 8:21)

Satan has exploited this inclination, especially during "the last days" (2Ti 3:1-5; Eph 2:2, 3; Re 12:7-10, 12)

We can avoid being a slave to sin's law by responding to God's spirit (Ro 8:12, 13; Ga 5:22-25)

THE CREATOR OFFERS THE ONLY SURE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE (7 min.)

According to evolution, chance rules; hence, evolution offers no sure hope for the future

Evolution is harmful because it justifies animalistic behavior and clashes with conscience

Applying "healthful teaching" found in Bible can make us truly happy (Tit 2:1; Lu 11:28)

Only Jehovah offers hope of everlasting life on a paradise earth (Ps 37:11; Isa 25:8; Re 21:3, 4)

Ransom, not gradual evolutionary improvement, will make everlasting life a reality (Mt 20:28; Joh 3:16)

Under Kingdom rule, faithful humans will be relieved of sin and its effects (Ro 8:21; Re 22:1, 2)

Mind and body will be perfected, brought into full harmony with each other and with God's standards

Eventually, all obedient humans will be adopted as earthly sons of God, perfectly imitating the Father (1Co 15:22-26; Eph 5:1, 2)

Put your feet on the path to life now by taking in accurate knowledge of Jehovah God and Jesus Christ (Joh 17:3; Col 1:9, 10)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read or commented on)